

Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 261314Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4420

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 11369

DEPT ALSO PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, XF

SUBJECT: FEDAYEEN-SYRIAN-JORDANIAN RELATIONS

REF: BEIRUT 11272

SUMMARY: SYRIAN EFFORT TO REASSURE FEDAYEEN OF CONTINUED
SARG SUPPORT, DESPITE ARAB DETENTE WITH JORDAN, POINTS TO
LIKEIHOOD THAT THERE WILL BE NO EARLY RESUMPTION OF
SYRIAN-JORDANIAN DIPLOMATIC RELATION. END SUMMARY.

1. OFFICIAL SYRIAN INFO MEDIA ARE CLAIMING THAT FOUR-HOUR MEETING
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SEPT 24 BETWEEN PRES ASSAD AND PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DELEGATION (FBIS M241200) IN DAMASCUS RESULTED IN "IDENTITY OF VIEWS" RE "FATEFUL AND COMPLETE" UNITY BETWEEN FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT AND SARG, AS WELL AS ASSURANCE BY ASSAS OF CONTINUED SARG BACKING FOR COMMANDOS.

2. FEDAYEEN SPOKESMEN HAVE SO FAR BEEN SILENT ON WHAT TRANSPIRED AT SEPT 24 MEETING, AND WE NOTE FATAH SPEAKERS AT ANOTHER PRO-FEDAYEEN RALLY SEPT 25 IN BEIRUT CONTINUED AGITATE AGAINST ARAB DETENTE WITH JORDAN, ACCUSING UNNAMED ARAB GOVTS OF FORCING COMMANDO MOVEMENT TO "MAKE PEACE WITH HASHEMITE LACKEY REGIME UNDER PRETEXT OF RESTABLISHING EASTERN FRONT".

3. ONLY SUBSTANTVE ACCOUNT OF SEPT 24 MEETING TO SURFACE THUS FAR APPEARED HERE IN SEPT 26 FRENCH-LANGUAGE L'OREINT-LE JOUR, WHICH CARRIED EXCLUSIVE REPORT FROM FEDAYEEN SOURCES THAT PLO/EC DEL PERSUADED ASSAD TO POSTPONE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GOJ IN DEFERENCE TO FEDAYEEN SENSIBILITIES AND IN ORDER FRUSTRATE JORDANIAN "PLOT" TO PROVOKE "CRISIS" IN SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN RELATION. SAME COURCES, ACCORDING TO L'ORIENT, PREDICT REOPENING OF VOP RADIO STATION AT DERA A "WITHIN NEXT 48 HOURS".

4. MEANWHILE, SYRIAN FONMIN KHADDAM, IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED SEPT 26 IN BEIRUT INDEPENDENT WEEKLY AS SAYYAD, REITERATED SARG LINE THAT EFFORT AT RAPPROCHEMENT WITH JORDAN WERE AIMED AT ACHIEVING "WIDEST MOBILIZATION OF ALL ARAB FORCES FOR COMING BATTLE WITH ISRAEL". HE ASSERTED SARG'S DECISION TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GOJ WILL DEPEND ON KING HUSSEIN'S ANSWERS TO CERTAIN "SPECIFIC QUESTIONS" POSED BY SARG. (HE DID NOT INDICATE WHAT THOSE QUESTIONS WERE.) KHADDAM SAID SARG HAD CLOSED VOP RADIO AT DERA A BECAUSE IT HAD BROADCAST ACCUSATION RE SYRIA'S "DESERTION" OF FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT AS PART OF WIDER "ARAB CONSPIRACY" AGAINST PALESTINE CAUSE. REITERATING SYRIAN SUPPORT FOR THAT CAUSE, HE DEFENDED RECENT RESTRICTIONS ON COMMANDOS IN SYRIA ON GROUNDS THAT SARG WISHES "DRAW FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT'S ATTENTION TO ITS MISTAKES IN CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT".

5. COMMENT: WE INCLINED BELIEVE AS DOES FRENCH EMBASSY HERE, THAT SARG HAD IN MIND EARLY RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH JORDAN AND MAY HAVE ASSUMED THAT KING HUSSEIN'S AMNESTY DECISION WOULD COOL FEDAYEEN PASSIONS SUFFICIENTLY TO AVOID SERIOUS

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CRISIS IN SYRIAN RELATIONS WITH FEDAYEEN. FACT THAT SEVERAL DAYS HAVE PASSED WITHOUT ANY RESUMPTION OF SYRIAN-JORDANIAN RELATIONS, PLUS REMARKS BY SARG FONMIN OUTLINED ABOVE, MAKES IT APPEAR THAT SYRIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE DECIDED HOLD RESUMPTION FORMAL TIES WITH GOJ IN ABEYANCE PERHAPS AWAITING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. CONCILATORY ATTITUDE ON PART SARG PARALLES SIMILAR EFFORT BY FEDAYEEN GROUPS REPRESENTED ON PLO/EC TO MINIMIZE DIFFERENCES WITH SYRIA AND ONE ANOTHER, AT LEAST IN PUBLIC.

HOUGHTON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

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